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With the Colors: Jasper County IL Servicemen
Overseas, 1941-1945

8-19-1944

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With the Colors

8/19/44



James Lee Diel

James Lee Diel of Newton, who was recently commissioned a lieutenant in the Paratroops while fighting in France.

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Private First Class William H. Allen, who is in France, writes his mother, Mrs. Ulie Jourdan of Newton:

"Everything is going o. k. with me. I'm feeling fine. We are just playing the role of antiaircraft now and quite some distance to the rear. It's quite a change from the first days when we were nearly always in range of artillery.

"Yesterday I chanced to pick up a Life magazine that contained the picture of the beach we landed on. Our boat was one of the boats in the picture. I recognized it by the number. The copy was June 19 and the picture was on page twenty-eight. Our boat, No. 305, fits into the center of the picture and the story of the picture tells isn't quite true.

Blasted by Mine

"At the time No. 305 was taking water fast and the rear end was nearly blown out by a mine. One engine was dead and we had trouble with the other. Every time we pulled to land the Germans shelled us, trying to get our range. We finally had to beach our boat about seventy-five yards from the beach and wade the tracks in.

"That beach was certainly a mess and matters were pretty rough there. We found bullet holes in our boxes containing food. Quite a day.

Private Allen has been overseas nine months and says to tell all hello for him. His birthday will be September 26. All wishing to write him can get his address from his mother. He says he would like to hear from his friends in Newton.

He has a brother, Private Calvert E. Allen, stationed somewhere in India.

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Coxswain William Garner is spending a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Garner of near Latona. He is on a cruiser with the Pacific fleet and has been in action fourteen times, including Munda, Bougainville, Saipan, Tinian and Guam.

Admiral Halsey has been aboard